

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraphs 9-11, 40 and 45 by rewriting the same as follows:

[0009] U.S. Pat. No. 5,003,659 to Paepke describes circular hand held, manually operated cleaning device with an essentially flat topped handle projecting from the top surface of the device's base. The handle is contoured so that the handle narrows as it approaches the base, thereby presenting a channel between its flat top and base to accept at least part of a thumb and a finger. The handle is therefore capable of being grasped by the hand when the palm is placed across its essentially flat top, which has also been hollowed out to create an opening in which to fit a frictionally fitting, elongated extension handle. The device also employs detachable pads, that are attachable to the bottom surface of the devices' flat base, which has glued to it a circular sheet bearing a plurality of hook like elements. These hooks are capable of attachment to a looped fastener fabric, which is in turn attached, by adhesive or otherwise, to a water absorbed sponge. Attachment therefore occurs much in the same manner as when "~~Velcro~~ VELCRO" is employed to obtain attachment. The hooks are also described as being capable of direct attachment to the loops of a stainless steel loose curled sponge. This device is limited in its use because its flat top becomes uncomfortable when a person who is grasping it has to apply any significant amount of downward pressure and use it for a long period of time. The extension handle is also limited, because its angle to the cleaning surface limits the downward pressure it can accept.

[0010] U.S. Pat. No. 5,915,869 to Agosto discloses an Ergonomic Cleaning Apparatus with Multiple Cleaning Surfaces that is the shape of a pyramid or tetrahedron and has a tetrahedral shaped core, which is made of squeezable fluid absorbing substance such as sponge. Multiple triangular shaped and replaceable scrubbing surfaces are attached to the various faces of the core. The scrubbing surface is attached to the core with hot glue for permanency, stitching, as well the trademark product "~~Velcro~~ VELCRO" which make these surfaces easily detachable. The scrubbing surfaces contemplated include different types of scouring pads, terry cloth, copper wool, steel wool and various sponge materials. The disadvantages of the device are several. The tetrahedral shape, composed of triangular pieces, does not adequately conform to the inner surface of the grasping hand reducing hand comfort and efficiency. The detachable feature of these cleaning surfaces, being mounted on a relatively soft and malleable core, are a further limitation since they are being directly held by the grasping hand and, therefore, are more prone to detachment as the hand moves back and forth during cleaning strokes. The user's hand being in more direct contact with any detergent or other fluids on these surfaces, as carried by the absorbent core, will necessitate the user's wearing of protective gloves at essentially all times.

[0011] U.S. Pat. No. 5,493,749 to Zayas discloses a hand held device with a detachable sponge exclusively designed for applying and removing, from the skin, topical compositions such as makeup, lotions and other beauty aids. Its object to provide a sanitary and pleasurable means for applying and removing such cosmetic materials. It is described as consisting of a handle, a base, a sponge and a cap that can fit over the sponge when it is not in use. The handle, the purpose of which is said to be precision, is elongated, projecting from the base at any angle from 0 to 180 degrees, with 30 to 60 degrees preferred. The replaceable sponge is attached to the bottom of the base by means of the sponge having on one of its sides one part of a two component fastening device, such as a clip, snap or "~~Velcro~~ VELCRO" (hook and loop material) strip. The other part of the fastening device is attached to the center of the bottom of the base of the handle. When the sponge is attached to the base and not in use, it can be covered by the cap, which fits into slots on the outer perimeter of the base. When a "~~Velcro~~ VELCRO" strip fixed to the base is used for attachment, it is described as being an approximately 0.5 inch square on an approximately 1.5 inch square base.

[0040] Remaining with FIG. 6, the top layer 6 of the cleaning member 3 is disclosed. The layer 6 creates a gripping connection between the cleaning member 3 and the base plate 2. A material used to fabricate the layer 6 is Female ~~Velcro~~ VELCRO, or Loop ~~Velcro~~ VELCRO. The material comprises a large quantity of synthetic loops utilized for attaching the material to another surface that is capable of gripping the loops.

[0045] In use, the projections 5 are capable of gripping more surfaces than Female ~~Velcro~~ VELCRO. For example, projections 5 are capable of gripping the loop surface of a common scouring pad. Accordingly, handle 1 is capable of gripping a single scouring pad, or a sponge having scouring pads on either side rather than being flanked by a scouring pad and Female ~~Velcro~~ VELCRO.